



**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Chile – Earthquake

Fact Sheet #11, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010

March 12, 2010

Note: The last fact sheet was dated March 10, 2010.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On March 11, President-elect Sebastian Piñera was inaugurated as President of Chile. To ensure continuity of humanitarian activities, members of USAID's Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) and U.S. Embassy officials continue to meet with newly identified Government of Chile (GoC) counterparts.
- On March 11, three aftershocks of a magnitude 6.0 or greater—including one of magnitude 6.9 and one of magnitude 6.7—occurred in central Chile, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Newly-inaugurated President Piñera subsequently declared O'Higgins Region, the epicenter of all three aftershocks, to be a disaster zone. President Piñera also deployed troops to the region to provide assistance to affected individuals and dissuade potential civil disobedience and looting.
- On March 11, members of the USAID/DART attended a coordination meeting convened by the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to discuss humanitarian needs in priority sectors, including water and sanitation, health, livelihoods, and shelter. The USAID/DART also met with a representative of a local architectural firm to review the proposed design of transitional shelters and discuss optimal shelter materials, particularly components that could be re-used in the eventual construction of permanent houses.
- On March 10 and 11, U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) C-130s flew five missions transporting humanitarian relief supplies and personnel from Santiago to earthquake- and tsunami-affected areas.
- On March 12, USAID/OFDA provided \$278,000 for the local purchase of materials and tools for the construction of up to 500 temporary shelters in affected areas, in coordination with municipal officials.

| NUMBERS AT A GLANCE | | SOURCE |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Confirmed Number of Deaths | 507 | U.N. – March 9 |
| Estimated Total Number of Dead and Missing People | 802 ¹ | GoC – March 4 |
| Estimated Affected Population | Approximately 2 million people | U.N. – March 8 |

FY 2010 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance to Chile..... \$10,992,941
DoD Humanitarian Assistance to Chile..... \$444,300
Total USAID and DoD Humanitarian Assistance to Chile..... \$11,437,241

CURRENT SITUATION

- According to the U.N., the GoC Ministry of the Interior reported the official death toll to be 507 people, including 10 bodies that had not yet been identified, as of March 9.
- A 16-member USAID/DART remains in Chile, working with U.S. Embassy personnel, GoC officials, and relief agencies to assess, identify, and respond to humanitarian needs in disaster-affected areas.

Aftershocks

- Shortly after the magnitude 6.9 aftershock on March 11, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Pacific Tsunami Warning Center issued a statement indicating that a destructive Pacific-wide tsunami was not expected. However, the GoC Navy oceanographic office called for the evacuation of coastal areas from Coquimbo Region to Los Lagos Region, as a precautionary measure. No tsunami occurred in Chile on March 11.
- Following the series of aftershocks in O'Higgins Region, local media reports indicated that the tremors had resulted in some additional damage to infrastructure in the region, including a collapsed bridge at Rancagua town.

¹ Reports of the death toll vary; the GoC continues working to locate missing individuals and identify earthquake and tsunami victims.

Shelter and Settlements

- During a March 10 coordination meeting, OCHA reported that the earthquake and tsunami destroyed 70 percent of houses in Dichato, 75 percent of houses in Llico and Tebul towns, and 80 of adobe houses in Maule Region. Thirty percent of block houses in Maule were also destroyed. Due to impending seasonal rains, OCHA stressed that affected populations urgently require adequate emergency shelter.
- In a recent meeting with the USAID/DART, representatives from Un Techo Para Chile (A Roof for Chile)—a well-known local non-governmental organization (NGO) that builds small, low-cost houses—indicated that the NGO plans to construct a minimum of 20,000 wooden transitional shelters, known as “mediaguas”. *Un Techo* will prioritize the construction of mediaguas in severely-affected municipalities where the population’s houses were destroyed or deemed uninhabitable.
- USAID/DART field staff continue to support the provision of transitional shelters to populations in rural areas in and around Curanipe, Pelluhue, and Chanco towns in Maule Region, coordinating the distribution of tools and wood for shelters in Curanipe. In coordination with municipal authorities, the team is also providing training for local carpenters and firefighters in temporary shelter construction.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

- In Bío Bío Region, the Chilean military reports that potable water is available in 55 percent of Concepción Province and in more than 95 percent of Ñuble and Bío Bío provinces. However, in Arauco Province approximately 50 percent of the population has access to potable water, resulting in required delivery of bottled or tankered water. The Chilean military continues to provide water to areas with damaged water supply systems through water tankers.
- According to OCHA, in affected areas, the risk of contamination of water supplies by chemicals and waste remains high. However, OCHA noted that much of the affected area’s water is provided by concessionaires who are responsible for repairs.
- In coordination with the GoC National Office of Emergencies and Information (ONEMI), USAID/OFDA water treatment units have been placed in the following towns in Bío Bío Region: Pehuén and Santa Rosa de Lebu, municipalities of Lebu; Sara de Lebu, a municipality of Los Álamos; Tirua, a municipality of Tirua; and Chacayal, a municipality of Los Ángeles.
- According to the U.N., many tsunami-affected coastal areas are littered with dead animals and decomposing matter. In addition, improper disposal of garbage is adding to the poor sanitation in some areas. To improve the sanitation and hygiene situation, environmental personnel are working to fumigate and decontaminate priority areas.

Health

- According to the U.N., although some areas remain without potable water and garbage has accumulated in the streets, no epidemic outbreaks have been reported in Chile since the earthquake. However, many hospitals in affected areas have not regularized primary care, particularly care for children, pregnant women, the elderly, and the chronically ill. In addition, psychosocial assistance continues to be in demand.
- On March 9, a USAID/OFDA-funded U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Medical Support (EMEDS) unit arrived in Chile and was transported to Angol town in La Araucanía Region—where the earthquake severely damaged a local 190-bed hospital that served a total population of approximately 110,000 people. Chilean medical staff will be working alongside U.S. medical personnel at the EMEDS unit.
- According to the USAID/DART, at present, a 20-bed private clinic is working to fill the gap left by the destruction of the Angol hospital, providing basic surgical services and referring overflow patients to hospitals in Victoria or Temuco, located 72 km south and 135 km south, respectively. Both Victoria and Temuco hospitals are now in overflow condition, in part due to referrals from Angol.

U.S. GOVERNMENT (USG) HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On February 27, USAID activated a Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team to coordinate the USG response to the effects of the earthquake in Chile and facilitate information-sharing and provision of assistance to disaster-affected individuals.
- On February 28, U.S. Ambassador Paul E. Simons issued a disaster declaration in response to the effects of the earthquake. In response, USAID deployed a 16-member USAID/DART to Chile to conduct assessments of humanitarian conditions in earthquake- and tsunami-affected areas, work with the U.S. Embassy and GoC to identify and respond to priority humanitarian needs, and coordinate the delivery of USAID/OFDA-funded emergency relief commodities.
- To date, USAID/OFDA assistance in response to the earthquake totals more than \$11.4 million, including support for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) emergency appeal, funding to support the deployment of a U.S. Air Force EMEDS unit to affected areas, and the provision and transport of eight mobile water treatment units and rolls of plastic sheeting from the USAID/OFDA warehouse in Miami, Florida.

- The USG has dispatched satellite phones to Chile to facilitate communications in affected areas until telephone networks are repaired. In addition, as of March 9, DoD has provided more than \$444,000 for the deployment of two C-130s to assist the Government of Chile with the transport of emergency relief supplies from Santiago to Concepción.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CHILE FOR THE EARTHQUAKE

| FY 2010 | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| <i>Implementing Partner</i> | <i>Activity</i> | <i>Location</i> | <i>Amount</i> |
| USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹ | | | |
| IFRC | Emergency Response Activities | Affected Areas | \$1,000,000 |
| DoD | EMEDS unit | Affected Areas | \$8,600,000 |
| Consignee to be determined (TBD) | Logistics and Relief Supplies | Affected Areas | \$913,140 |
| TBD | Shelter Materials and Tools | Affected Areas | \$278,000 |
| TBD | Emergency Response Activities | Affected Areas | \$50,000 |
| | Administration and Support Costs | | \$151,801 |
| TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CHILE | | | \$10,992,941 |
| DoD ASSISTANCE² | | | |
| | Transportation of Relief Commodities | Affected Areas | \$444,300 |
| TOTAL DoD | | | \$444,300 |
| TOTAL USAID AND DoD HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CHILE IN FY 2010 | | | \$11,437,241 |

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents committed or obligated amounts as of March 12, 2010.

² DoD funding figure represents incremental costs as of March 9, 2010.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Chile may be available at www.reliefweb.int.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/.